IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1 - 8.

Please add the following new claims:

--9. (New) A computerized method for implementing disk space quotas comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database of disk space quotas and disk space utilization data; intercepting an I/O request before it reaches a file system driver;

determining whether any disk space quota would be exceeded by completion of the I/O request;

blocking completion of the I/O request if any disk space quota would be exceeded by completion of the I/O request; and

allowing the I/O request to complete and updating the disk space utilization data to reflect completion if a disk space quota would not be exceeded.

- 10. (New) The method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of issuing an error message if a disk space quota would be exceeded by completion of the I/O request.
- 11. (New) The method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of serializing I/O requests.
- 12. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of serializing I/O requests includes the step of locking a synchronizing object for the file when an I/O request for that file is detected.
- 13. (New) The method of Claim 12, wherein the synchronizing object is a kernel event.
- 14. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the disk space quotas comprise at least one ownership quota and at least one directory quota, the ownership quota being a maximum

quantity of disk space in use by files associated with a particular owner, the directory quota being a maximum quantity of disk space in use by files associated with a particular directory.

- 15. (New) The method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of serializing access to the database.
- 16. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein the serializing step is performed using a simple kernel mutex.
 - 17. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein paging I/O requests are ignored.
- 18. (New) A computerized method for implementing disk space quotas comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database of disk space quotas;

intercepting an I/O request before it reaches a file system driver;

determining whether any disk space quota would be exceeded by the completion of the I/O request; and

allowing the I/O request to complete only if a disk space quota would not be exceeded.

- 19. (New) The method of Claim 18, further comprising the step of issuing an error message if a disk space quota would be exceeded by completion of the I/O request.
- 20. (New) The method of Claim 18, further comprising the step of serializing I/O requests.
- 21. (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of serializing I/O requests includes the step of locking a synchronizing object for the file when an I/O request for that file is detected.
- 22. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein the synchronizing object is a kernel event.

23. (New) The method of Claim 18, further comprising the step of:

maintaining disk space utilization data; and

updating the disk space utilization data to reflect completion of the I/O request.--